



AAUW-Long Beach VANTAGE

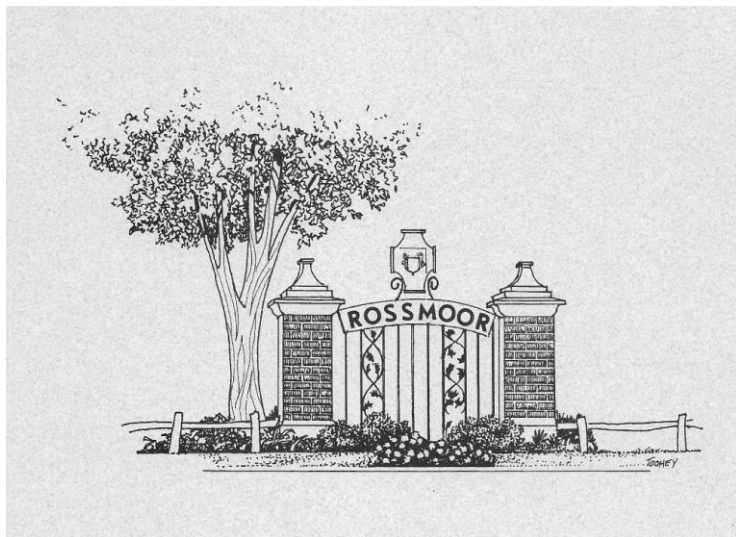


December 2011

Long Beach Branch, Vol. 41 Issue 4

Saturday December 3, 2011

Rossmoor Home of LAMIS HASHEM



Traditionally, Wassail is an expression of goodwill at a festivity or a salutation toasting to one's good health. Let us continue this tradition and toast to our good health with our AAUW Long Beach Branch membership at this annual event, which is also the end of our 100th year as an organization.

Refreshments and the hot, mull spiced Wassail drink, made by our own Barbara Gleason (using an 'AAUW' recipe) will be served. There is no cost. We will gather from 10 am – Noon. Family, friends and prospective members are welcome to join us at this annual event which this year, also celebrates our longevity as an organization.

See page 6 for details and directions to our yearend event.

AAUW's Mission Statement: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

AAUW's Value Promise: By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Branch News

Mary Orr

Courtesy



HO HO HO Happy Holidays to you and yours. Remember to leave a cookie for Santa!

Sadly, we learned of the passing of our dear member **Ruth Graham** of heart failure on October 11, 2011.

We also heard that another of our dear members, **Marjorie Dunn**, passed away. Her memorial was held at the First Congregational Church of Long Beach. Condolence cards were sent to their families with our prayers and thoughts. They will be greatly missed.

Birthday greetings to all December honorees.



"Life is not measured by the number of breaths you take but by the number of moments that take your breath away." Anon

CALENDAR EVENTS & NOTICES

December 3 Wassail



AAUW-LONG BEACH WEBSITE:

<http://www.aauw-longbeach.org>.

AAUW email Address:

AAUWLongBeach@gmail.com

We're on Facebook!



<http://www.aauw-ca.org/blog/index.cfm/2010/8/5/Were-on-Facebook>

Follow AAUW on 

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All will be held on the third Monday of the month, social time at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 6:45 p.m. All meetings will be at the Unitarian Universalist Church at Atherton and Bellflower Blvd. Room 2. **Meeting dates: 2/20/12 & 4/16/12.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

All will be held on the third Monday of the month, social time 6:30 p.m., and meeting at 6:45 p.m. All meetings will be at the Unitarian Universalist church, Room 2. Meeting dates: **1/16/12, 3/19/12, & 5/21/12**

Dates: -joint meeting incoming and outgoing boards



CALL FOR STEM CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteers to assist at the 9th AAUW Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Career Conference. The 2012 Conference will take place on Friday, February 24, 2011 at Long Beach City College, Liberal Arts Campus. At this yearly Conference, women with careers in math, science, technology and engineering present workshops to middle-school girls to excite them about the possibilities of such careers and encourage them to attend college. Volunteers for this event are needed to take on tasks like facilitating speakers, helping with registration, or preparing bags and refreshments.

**** If you are interested in being a volunteer or have any questions about assisting at the Conference, please email Darlene Daclan at darlene_daclan@yahoo.com or call at 562/673-6909. ****

Sharon Westafer & Daphne Ching-Jackson



AAUW Funds Educational Opportunities

Thank you so much to those of you who have so generously supported the Educational Opportunities fund through your donations of money and/or participation in the fundraising events. Because of your generosity, \$3250 in direct donations and \$1863.38 from The Luncheon Most Deadly was sent to National for the branch contribution. The luncheon was very successful; the speakers were entertaining, there was lively bidding on the auction items and the bookseller donated \$50 from book sales. Fay Denny and her committee did a wonderful job. Thank you!

Endowments are established by AAUW branches to honor state presidents, branches or branch members. Interest from the endowments funds the Fellowship and Grant recipients. The Long Branch branch has six completed endowments and one grant or Fellowship recipient will be featured here and in future Vantage articles.

The Ethel Black Research and Projects Endowment was established in 1998 and completed in 2001. The amount of the endowment is \$75,000. Kyoko Aoki, a Career Development Grant recipient, is partially funded by interest from the Ethel Black endowment. Kyoko is majoring in Information studies a UCLA. She holds a bachelor’s degree in studio art and art history and has worked in the legal field conducting investigation and case management for men and women facing the death penalty in California. She is currently pursuing a master’s degree in library and information science with a specialization in archival studies. She hopes to use technologies to document, manage, preserve, and provide access to histories that have been underrepresented in official records.



The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund

To the most generous members of the Long Beach Branch of AAUW, a HUGE THANK YOU, for supporting the annual appeal for funding of the Legal Advocacy Fund. On Saturday, November 5th, approximately \$1500.00 was donated to LAF. This included an Opportunity Drawing, which totaled \$30. Deloris Mayuga and Ellen Mathis were the winners. Join in the celebration of the 130th Anniversary of the American Association of University Women on November 28, 2011.

Please read the “*Crossing the Line*” report on the AAUW website when it released. I want to thank all members for their continuing support of the work of the Legal Advocacy Fund. In addition, I want to extend a special thank you to Cacilia Kim, a LB Branch member, for her informative presentation about the California Women’s Law Center and Title IX. Remember, EQUITY is still the issue.

By: Flo Pickett



Public Policy

Women and Social Security...Women's Unique Challenge

The three legged stool-----Social Security, employment based retirement plans, and individual savings/investments -----has long been used to explain retirement security or how people can live in their non-working years.

Here are the problems for women:

- Women earn less than men do in their lifetime of work –payments into social security and retirement plans are less, resulting in lower amount of benefits.
- Women more often than men take time off from paid work to be caregivers to children or aging parents. Part time work or missing years result in less pay and have a lower likelihood of good retirement plans and social security benefits.
- Women live longer than men do; they outlive their husbands and their husband's retirement. (we are not even considering a divorce rate today of 50%)

Added all together, a dim picture emerges. When women reach retirement age, many cannot afford to retire. The risk of poverty in old age is all too real for too many women.

Social Security provides the majority of income for at least half of Americans over age 65.

It is 90% or more of income for 43% of singles. The poverty rate for all women over 65 is 10.7% and nearly 22% for women of color.

Women continue to work if they can. Job prospects dim for all people after age 50-55.

Professional women have a better chance of remaining employed. Women whose jobs are physically demanding i.e. nurses, childcare providers, or women who do domestic work are often on their feet 8-12 hours a day. Moreover, many who do heavy work like lifting or turning over patients or mattresses develop back pain and other health problems. At 62-65 (and going up), they can draw social security benefits, the average of which is \$1100. a month.

Social Security has become a high profile political football game today. Women who care about other women including their own mothers, their friends, and daughters' futures need to be a part of the game.

Let's pay attention!



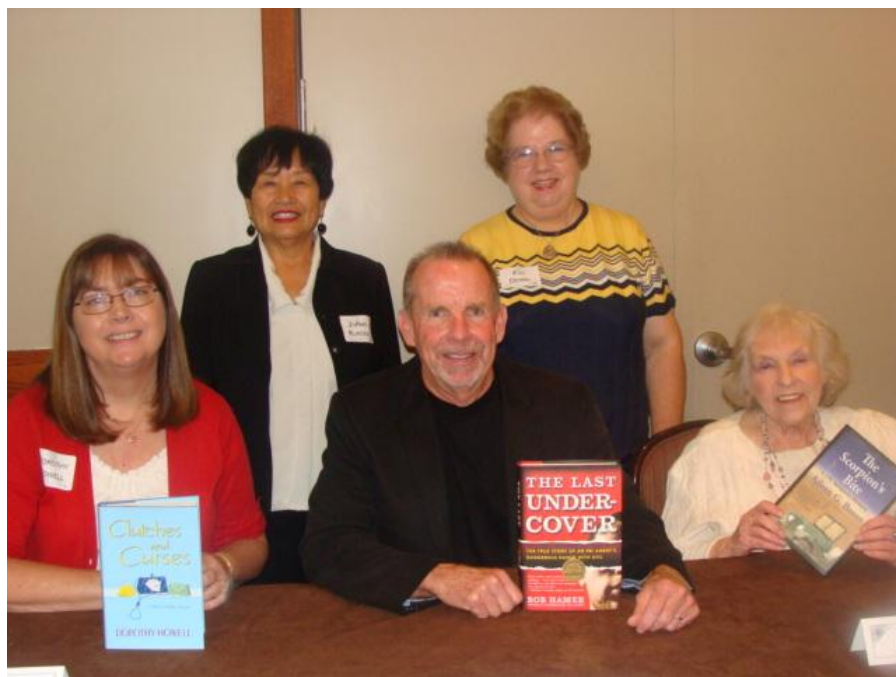
Fay Denny



A Successful Third Annual Authors Luncheon

48 of our members and their guests enjoyed the third annual authors luncheon held at the Old Ranch Country Club on October 15th, 2011. Aileen G. Brown, Bob Hamer, and Dorothy Howell highlighted their writing careers and books with wonderful stories filled with humor. Door prizes were donated by Naples Rib Company, Huntington Library, the Cerritos Performing Arts Center, Hof's Hut, Forbidden City, Ross Dress for Less, and Finbar's Italian Restaurant. Silent Auction items were donated by members of our Interest Groups, Antiques and Collectibles, Book Chat, Literary Ladies, EX-ITS, and members: Kay Hudnall, Sharon Westafer and Carolyn Magnuson. Our bookseller this year was Debbie Mitsch of Mystery Ink bookstore in Huntington Beach.

Through the generosity of our members and guests, \$1863.38 was made for our Educational Opportunities fund and will be added to the previous donations received. The members of our Authors Luncheon thank you profusely for your support. **Members of the committee** were: **JoAnn Kuroda**, co-President; **Fay Denny** (Chair of the Event); **Gail Morrison** (Publicity), **Carolyn Magnuson** (Silent Auction Chair); **Sandra Shelly** (Decorations and Centerpieces); **Judith Kaho** (basket decoration); **Sharon Westafer** (Treasurer); **Judith Bergquist** (door check-in); and **Dianne Bradfield** (Door prize solicitation).



JOIN US TO...

ENJOY OUR TRADITIONAL
DECEMBER **WASSAIL**

WRAP-UP THE
LONG BEACH BRANCH'S
100TH YEAR*

Saturday, December 3, 2011
10:00- Noon

Rossmoor HOME of Member, LAMIS HASHEM
3312 Hill Rose Drive Los Alamitos CA 90720

Directions:

From Seal Beach Blvd, turn on to St Cloud Dr, take the 4th left on to Hill Rose Dr, 3312 is 7th on left.

*Organized January 21, 1911 as the College Women's Club

In the News!



This month, AAUW released a brand new report about sexual harassment in children aged seven through twelve, *Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School*. The many disturbing stories and statistics our researchers gathered add up to one fact: sexual harassment is part of everyday life in middle schools and high schools across America. You can do your part, right now, to help change this: Ask your senators to promote the Safe Schools Improvement Act (S. 509)! The Safe Schools Improvement Act would significantly strengthen schools' ability and responsibility to combat sexual harassment and bullying. It would require schools to have comprehensive anti-harassment and bullying policies and promote prevention strategies. The bill would also tell schools to maintain and report data regarding incidents of bullying and harassment.

The Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee will be meeting in January to fill the slate of potential elected office for the 2012-12 AAUW year. We will be looking for "a few good women" who are willing and able to serve. Nominate yourself or a friend for the following:

CO-PRESIDENTS ELECT

CO-PROGRAM VPS

SECRETARY

AAUW FUNDS (EF & LAF COMBINED)

CO-MEMBERSHIP VPS

TREASURER

the following members of the nominating committee are available to answer your questions and accept your nominations. Flo Pickett, Joyce Blasnek, Dianne Bradfield, Darlene Daclan, Kay Hudnall, Daphne Ching-Jackson, Ellen Mathis. Please speak with any of these women about your interest or suggest others for a position for the AAUW 2012-13 year. Being a Board member is as much fun as it is work and other members are supportive. It's a great way to learn more about AAUW, help our branch in supporting equity for women and girls, and get acquainted with other Board members. Think about it; talk to a member... become active.

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AAUW Long Beach Branch



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In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

Editor: Darci Fersch – de.ferschl@verizon.net



INTEREST GROUPS

Public Policy:

Please contact Flo Pickett 562-421-5348 for information.

Bridge Group:



Friday Bridge, 2nd Friday of the month 9:30-12N (contact) Cathy Cunningham 562/424-3166

Book Chat Plus:



Book Chat Plus Join this section at the home of Jean Friedrichs to discuss your current reading, a great movie you have just seen, or an exciting trip you have taken. We meet on the First Tuesday of most months at 10:30 a.m. for tea and cookies and chat until noon. Call Jean for more information at 562--598-9218

Golf:



Contact Pat Ferrer, 562 597 4781, panderoh@aol.com to set up a day/time for 9 holes of golf.

Gourmet Group:



Join this congenial group to share delightful meals at a member's home. Everyone shares in cooking part of the meal. We meet the fourth Thursday at 12:30 p.m. Call. Jean Friedrichs: 562-598-9218.

Literary Ladies:



This group meets the second Monday of the month at Jean Aldrich's home at 1 p.m. Please refer to your yearbook for Jean's phone number. The December book selection is *Blood, Bones and Butter: The Inadvertent Education of a Reluctant Chef* by Gabrielle Hamilton.

International Cuisine:



The group will meet in January. Contact JoAnn Kuroda @ 562-429-6922 for more information.

Antiques and Collectibles:



Mark your calendar for January 9, 2012 for the second meeting of the year.

Residential Rentals Discussion Group:

This monthly 3rd Wednesday 10 am to 11:30 am gathering is a discussion group on topics relating to residential rentals – things of interest/importance/concern. We most often meet at the dining room table at one of our homes. Ellen: epmathis@verizon.net. Might you inherit a rental property soon? Do you have that one rental property someone else is managing? Have you thought about investing in a rental? Do you want to see how your property owner thinks? Come join us!